

**MINUTES OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMON COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 29, 1999
SPECIAL SESSION**

The Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana met in special session on Wednesday, September 29, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 20 North 6th Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag of our Country.

The following members were:

Present:	Meyer, Phillips, Campbell, Brown, Rhoda, Fisher, Smith, Probasco
Absent:	Boehning

President Probasco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Clerk read Ordinance 99-34 (An Ordinance Appropriating Money for the Purpose of Defraying the Expenses of Several Departments of the City Government of the City of Lafayette, Indiana for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2000 and Ending December 31, 2000, Including the Outstanding Claims and Obligations and Fixing the Time When the Same Shall Take Effect) by title only for second and final reading. Councilman Campbell moved for passage of Ordinance 99-34, Councilman Fisher seconded. Councilman Phillips moved to amend Ordinance 99-34 to reduce the 2000 budget by \$1,644,740, Councilman Campbell seconded. Councilman Meyer had a question about the total for the 2000 budget reductions. After clarification on the total of the reductions, Councilman Phillips amended her original amendment to reduce the 2000 budget by \$1,604,740, Councilman Fisher seconded. The amendment was approved by unanimous voice vote. Councilman Meyer inquired about reductions in the Fire and Police departments. Councilman Phillips stated that she had talked to Deputy Chief John Dennis and he assured her that the police department would not decrease service. Councilman Meyer asked about vehicle leases, Sanitation Department motor equipment needs, and the Park Department. Mayor Heath stated that Vinton Pool would be funded. Mayor Heath explained the use of Cumulative Capital funds. Councilman Fisher commended the department heads for their work in cutting the proposed 2000 budget. Councilman Smith made several comments. Councilman Phillips stated that she felt that the budget is excellent. Councilman Phillips stated that it is tough to keep the tax rate down when 70% is for salaries and benefits and those costs must increase every year. Councilman Brown inquired about the reduction on other equipment on the fire department. The amendment passed 7-0 on a roll call vote. Councilman Meyer inquired about the projected tax rate. Bill Yazbec, City Controller, stated that he expected an increase of no more that \$.10 per \$100.00. President Probasco stated that Lafayette would still be much lower than all other Class 2 cities in Indiana. Councilman Phillips stated that the tax rate in 1996 was \$2.8202 and that with an increase the tax rate would still remain substantially lower. Councilman Fisher stated that the actual tax rate is still speculation until meeting with the State Board of Tax Commissioners. Councilman Meyer inquired about the budget publication in the Journal and Courier. Councilman Phillips referred to a Journal and Courier article from 1992 stating that the process is the same as it has been in the past. Councilman Meyer expressed his concern with the difference between the published numbers and the final budget. Mr. Yazbec and President Probasco responded to Councilman Meyer's questions. Councilman Fisher stated that this is the same process. Councilman Phillips stated that the cash balances makes up for a large percentage of the difference. Councilman Meyer inquired about operating balances. Councilman Brown made several comments about the budget process. Councilman Fisher stated that the budget process is established by the state legislature. President Probasco stated that the council members had an opportunity to meet with all department heads early in the process to discuss each budget. Councilman Phillips stated that it is important to remember that department heads needed to make these cuts because that is their job. Peggy Cleary, 420 S. Tinkler Street, stated that she has watched the budget process for several years and each council member has a responsibility

to gain information on the budget numbers. Ordinance 99-34 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote with President Probasco voting in favor of the Ordinance.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilman Campbell moved for adjournment and Councilman Fisher seconded. The motion passed by voice vote. Time being 7:59 p.m.

These minutes written by Lisa Decker, City Clerk

A tape recording of this council meeting is maintained in the City Clerk's Office.